

## SEVERE LOCAL STORMS FOR MARCH 1948

[The table hereunder contains such data as have been received concerning severe local storms that occurred during the month. A revised list will appear in the United States Meteorological Yearbook]

Place	Date	Time	Width of path, yards	Loss of life	Value of property destroyed	Character of storm	Remarks
Brownsboro, Tex., and vicinity.	1	12:30 p. m.	350	0	\$150,000	Tornado and hail.	6 persons injured; 5 homes destroyed, 9 damaged by wind. Light hail. Automobile with 2 occupants tossed 150 yards. Principal property damage in Opelika community, 3 miles west of Brownsboro.
Mabank, Tex.	1	1:30 p. m.	100	0	10,000	Tornado and hail.	Moderate hail; no damage. Principal wind damage to buildings.
New Iberia, La.	2-3	Night.			5,000	Lightning.	Several buildings struck during severe thunderstorm.
Beaufort, S. Car.	5	During night.		1		Windsquall.	One person drowned as boat overturned during squall.
Kansas.	9-11	Began early 9th, in northwest.		2		Blizzard.	High winds, heavy drifting snow, and severe low temperatures in all sections. Record depths of snow on ground, 15 to 20 inches in west and north. Many new low March temperature records established; -28° on 11th at Quinter, Healy, and Oberlin. 2 deaths from exposure.
Austin, Tex.	16	2:25 a. m.			800,000	Hail.	Diameter of largest stones 3 inches; majority 1 inch. Major loss to roofs of homes; extensive damage to neon lighting, greenhouses, and parked aircraft.
Florence, Ala.	16	2:05 p. m.	100	0	200,000	Tornado.	Storm in southeastern part of town. Path 1 mile long, southwest to northeast, through business and residential districts, lifting intermittently. 3 persons injured; about 30 buildings destroyed, and 43 others damaged. Although 6 homes completely destroyed, none of sleeping occupants killed. About one-fifth of damage by water.
Albany to Anderson City, Ga.	16	5:00 p. m.	100	0	5,000	Tornado.	Storm first struck eastern suburbs of Albany and moved 1½ miles northeastward to Anderson City. At Albany, a barn, house, garage, and several smaller buildings badly damaged. At Minton, a home severely damaged and several smaller buildings demolished.
Molena, Pike County, Ga.	16	Late afternoon.		0		Tornado.	Little damage, moved over sparsely settled area; some damage to timber.
Zebulon, Pike County, Ga.	16	6 p. m.	100	0	2,500	Tornado.	Moved from north to south. 3 cabins, several barns, and smaller buildings practically demolished, and planing mill unroofed.
Beckham County, Okla.	18	7-9:30 p. m.	11-2		40,000	Hail and wind.	Path of hailstorm, 30 miles long, affecting Erick, Delhi, Carter, Sayre, and Elk City. Heaviest hail damage southwest of Sayre. Hail up to 2 inches or more in diameter. Worst hailstorm in years. A tornado occurred in connection with storm; details and damage listed below.
Beckham County, Okla.	18	8 p. m.	Narrow	0	35,000	Tornado.	Path 15 miles long from 4 miles west of Delhi through Westoak gasoline plant south of Sayre to a point north of Carter. Considerable damage to farm property. 12 houses at Sayre damaged, 12 near Carter, and 15 near Delhi; 4 of the houses near Delhi completely demolished. 3 persons injured.
Custer County, Okla.	18	About 8:30 p. m.	50	0	55,000	Tornado.	Path 6 miles long, from ¼ mile south of Clinton to 2 miles north. 7 families made homeless. Airport south of Clinton damaged; considerable minor damage to windows and roofs in business section of Clinton. \$5,000 damage to hay and feed in storage. 1 person injured.
Kingfisher County, Okla.	18	9:50 p. m.	100	0	25,000	Tornado.	Path 4 miles long, from 2 miles east of Kingfisher to about 4 miles northeast. \$450 damage to hay, \$50 damage to livestock, and \$24,500 to buildings.
McClain County, Okla.	18	10-11 p. m.	2,640	0	17,000	Tornado, excessive rains.	Path 6 miles long; 2 houses destroyed, 3 others damaged. Considerable soil erosion, not included in storm damage.
Sedgwick County, Kans.	18	10:23 p. m.	40	0	200,000	Tornado.	Struck Beechwood area, 8 miles east-southeast of Wichita. Losses to Federal housing estimated at \$95,000; to Beech Aircraft and Government planes on field, \$65,000; other miscellaneous losses, \$40,000. Several persons sustained minor injuries and 2 required hospitalization. Path 1 mile long; storm from southwest.
Stillwater, Payne County, Okla.	18	11:10-11:13 p. m.	200	0	50,000	Tornado.	Path 2 miles long. Tornado traveled 7 blocks, causing considerable damage to buildings along Main Street; then hopped ¼ mile and destroyed farm building. It is possible that the tornadoes on this date in Beckham, Custer, Kingfisher, and Payne Counties were really a single tornado that covered 153 miles in a hit-skip fashion in about 3 hours.
Bracken County, Ky.	19	2:00-2:30 p. m.	440	2	15,000	Tornado.	Most violent in vicinity of Brooksville. Path about 10 miles long.
Ohio, practically entire State.	19	Afternoon.		6		Gales and tornadoes.	Tornadoes at scattered points in Van Wert, Henry, and Wood Counties. Other tornadoes swept through Bloomingburg, Fayette County; Bethesda, Belmont County; and Mohawk Village, Coshocton County. Evidence of tornado damage at Springfield, Zanesville, and near Galena and Sunbury in Delaware County. 31 persons reported injured. Property losses ranged from broken windows to completely demolished buildings; estimated in millions of dollars.
Kentucky, central and northern portions.	19	All day.			10,000	Windstorm.	Much minor damage to buildings.
New York, central portion.	19	All day.			750,000	Wind.	In Syracuse, Oswego, and surrounding area, buildings damaged, trees uprooted, and limbs broken, carrying down power and communication lines. \$500,000 of damage due to wetting of raw penicillin when building was unroofed.
West Virginia, entire State.	19	Afternoon and evening.			50,000	Wind.	In Wood County, few small trees uprooted, windows broken, brickwork blown down, and street signs damaged. In Barbour County, several farm buildings destroyed; 6 head of cattle and 3 horses killed as barn collapsed.
Mt. Pleasant, Pa.	19	7:30-8:00 p. m.		0		Tornado.	Over 12 houses damaged, plants wrecked, power and telephone lines down. 3 persons slightly injured. Lumber scattered. Damage in thousands.
Garrett County, Md.	19	Evening.			11,000	Wind.	Destroyed barn containing 9 tons of hay, large quantity oats and dairy feed; 1 horse and 3 cows perished.
Washita County, Okla.	20	8:00 p. m.	12½		1,000	Hail.	South and southeast of Cloud Chief. Some shingled roofs damaged.
Will Rogers and Tinker Fields, Oklahoma City, Okla.	20	10:10-10:22 p. m.	880	0	10,250,000	Tornado.	Greatest property damage from a single tornado ever noted in Oklahoma. Apparently traveled about 10 miles in 12 minutes from Will Rogers Field to Tinker Field, cleaving a path of shattered signs and damaged buildings. Several buildings east and north of Tinker Field damaged or destroyed. From Tinker Field east, two paths; one northeast to the vicinity of 23d St.; other limited to southeast corner of Tinker Field and immediate area northeast. Storm accompanied by hail. 8 injuries, mostly slight. Tinker Field: Apparently 2 tornadoes within storm following parallel paths. 50 aircraft destroyed and 50 others damaged. Damage estimated at \$10,000,000 to aircraft, \$222,000 to buildings, and \$15,000 to utility system. Will Rogers Field: Damage estimated at \$6,000 to planes and \$3,000 to hangars, etc. A 98 m. p. h. wind reported at the Weather Bureau Airport Station, and barograph made a vertical line, indicating pressure range between 28.22 and 28.53 inches in a few minutes.
Ross, Tex.	22	3:00 p. m.			2,000	Wind and hail.	Light hail; minor wind damage to buildings.
Kerr County, Tex.	22	9:00 p. m.				Hail.	Largest hailstones size of baseballs. Storm occurred on Carr Ranch, 10 miles north of Kerrville.
Anderson, S. Car.	23	Early a. m.			2,500	Thunderstorm.	Near-gale winds unroofed 6 houses, broke windows, and shattered neon signs.

See footnotes at end of table.

## SEVERE LOCAL STORMS FOR MARCH 1948 Continued

[The table hereunder contains such data as have been received concerning severe local storms that occurred during the month. A revised list will appear in the United States Meteorological Yearbook]

Place	Date	Time	Width of path, yards	Loss of life	Value of property destroyed	Character of storm	Remarks
Mecklenburg and Cabarrus Counties, N. Car.	23	Began 6:16 p. m.	25-65	0	43,950	Tornado	Apparently formed about 5 miles north of Charlotte Airport Station. Path 65 miles long. Two funnels, second one very small and immediately following first. 3 houses destroyed in Mecklenburg County. Storm moved northeastward into Cabarrus County, where 6 houses, numerous barns and outbuildings, trucks, and 1 airplane were destroyed. 4 persons injured. Most damage in vicinity of Concord.
Tinker Field, Oklahoma City, Okla.	25	6:00 p. m.	200	0	6,100,000	Tornado	Second tornado to strike Tinker Field within week. In its 1 1/4-mile-long path, 84 planes were hit by the wind, 35 damaged beyond repair. Tornado accompanied by moderate hail 1/4 to 3/4 inch in diameter. Apparently formed when 2 thunderstorms converged about 3 miles southwest of field; one storm from west, the other from south-southwest. Wind 78 m. p. h. at edge of storm. 1 person slightly injured.
Noble County, Okla.	25	6:30 p. m.	880	0	8,000	Tornado	3 funnel clouds. Path east-northeastward from a point 3 miles east of Billings; 10 miles long. Damage to 1 airplane and hangar, house roofs, barn, and several garages. No injuries. Accompanied by hail.
Hughes, McIntosh, Muskogee, and Sequoyah Counties, Okla.	25	8:30-11:30 p. m.	880	13	328,250	Tornado	Path 102 miles long in Oklahoma, varying from 100 yards to 2 1/4 miles. Storm advanced at about 34 m. p. h., in hit and skip fashion, entering Arkansas. Low areas escaped extensive damage, although evidence of twisting winds traveling overhead in broken and twisted tops of trees. Accompanied by moderate to heavy hail and rain. Loss of life included 7 in Hughes County, 4 in McIntosh County and 2 in Sequoyah County; 44 injuries reported. Property damage by counties: Hughes County, \$155,000; McIntosh County, \$101,000; Muskogee County, \$20,250; Sequoyah County, \$52,000.
Zena (near), Delaware County, Okla.	25	9:00 p. m.		0	11,250	Tornado	1 home and 6 other buildings damaged or destroyed. Path 1 mile long.
Boynton, Muskogee County, Okla.	25	9:45 p. m.	200	0	100,000	do.	Funnel observed moving fast; sounded like a fast freight train. 2 injuries. Many small buildings destroyed.
Wyandotte (near), Ottawa County, Okla.	25			1		Electrical	Man killed when walking along road.
Crawford and Washington Counties, Ark.	25	Near midnight		0	14,000	Tornado	2 houses and a number of smaller buildings 20 miles southwest of Fayetteville destroyed; damage, \$7,000. \$5,000 damage to 1 house and 2 barns at Lee's Creek. \$2,000 damage, mostly to roofs and windows at Mountainburg. No injuries reported.
Booneville and Caulksville, Logan County, Ark.	25	do.			5,000	Thunderstorms	3 barns and 1 garage destroyed; other buildings damaged.
Brandon, Minn., and vicinity.	26	12:30 a. m.			2,000	Electrical	7 cows killed when lightning struck barn.
Wisconsin, southeastern portion.	26-27				15,500	High winds, glaze, sleet, drifting snow.	Highways hazardous, blocked in some places. Milwaukee streetcar service interrupted by frozen switches and power failures; many electric poles on south side broken by wind; some plate glass windows broken. At Kenosha, glaze on trolley wires curtailed streetcar service.
Birmingham, Ala.	26	4:40 p. m.	Narrow	0	16,000	Probable tornado, electrical.	Several garages and small buildings blown down; roofing blown from several houses. Path short. Approximately \$10,000 damage due to lightning.
Aliceville, Pickens County, Ala.	26	7:00 p. m.	100	3	70,000	Tornado	Through west portion of town. Path, southwest to northeast, about 2 miles long. 40 persons injured. Damage mostly to homes.
Ferriday, La.	26-27	Night				Windsquall	Trees uprooted and buildings damaged.
Opelika, Lee County, Ala.	26	11:15 p. m.	80	0	200,000	Tornado	In north side of town, along Western Railway of Alabama, path about 7 blocks long from southwest to northeast. 4 persons injured.
New Orleans, La.	27	1:15 a. m.	300		10,000	Windsquall	4 city blocks affected. Tops of trees, mostly large oaks, broken off, breaking power and communications lines and damaging roofs of dwellings. Tiles blown from roofs. 1 garage smashed by wind.
Cave Springs, Ga.	27	2:00 a. m.		0	5,000	Windstorm, possibly tornado.	One house demolished and 6 severely damaged.
Euharlee to Rowland Springs, Ga.	27	2:50 a. m.	300-500	0	100,000	Tornado	Euharlee, near Cartersville, hit first; a smokestack fell on other buildings, causing heavy damage to roofs. Storm then moved northeastward over a 20-mile course to Rowland Springs, lifting from ground at this point. Considerable damage to buildings; 12 or more homes almost totally destroyed. Other miscellaneous damages.
Hampton to McDonough, Ga.	27	Early a. m.		0	5,000	Tornado	Near Hampton, small store destroyed and several buildings unroofed.
Rome, Ga.	27	Early a. m.		0	30,000	Windstorm, possibly tornado.	At McDonough, several buildings unroofed and courthouse damaged.
Bakersville (Marine Studios), St. Johns County, Fla.	27	2:00-3:00 p. m.		0	500	Tornado with hail	High winds unroofed portion of chemical plant; chemicals damaged by rain. Other miscellaneous damages.
Kite, Johnson County, Ga.	27	4:00 p. m.		0	10,000	Tornado	Damage confined to broken power lines and fallen trees. Hail, marble size.
Fairbanks, Alaska, and vicinity.	28	5:02 a. m.-5:00 p. m., A. S. T.				Gale and whole gale winds.	Numerous buildings sustained moderate to heavy damage. Several barns demolished. Power and telephone service temporarily disrupted.
Bishop, Calif.	29	1:00 to 4:00 p. m.	20		100	Wind (dust devil)	Associated with cold-front passage. Maximum wind velocity of 60 m. p. h. at 5:38 a. m., A. S. T., and estimated gusts of 75 to 80 m. p. h.
Quitman, Tex.	30	8:00 p. m.			5,500	Wind	35 airplanes damaged at Weeks Field. East end and portion of roof of large hangar (Lavery Airways) blown off. Many communication lines, poles, and trees blown down. Roofs, chimneys, and storm windows damaged. 8,000 square feet of sheet iron roof torn off Administration Building, University of Alaska. No injuries.
Charleston, Miss., 2 miles north.	30	10:20 p. m.		0	5,000	Tornado	Tore off old shingle roof and broke out one corner of shack.
Jacksonville, Fla.	31	4:00-4:15 p. m.	300		5,000	Squall and hail	3 buildings damaged; damage to stored crops, \$500 and to buildings, \$5,000.

<sup>1</sup> Miles instead of yards.